

What is claims is:

1. A fixing device, comprising:
 - a heating member for heating a toner image;
 - a pressure applying member arranged to face a heating member;
 - an urging member for urging the pressure applying member toward the heating member;
 - a changeover device to increase the urging power of the urging member so that the pressure applying member is brought in pressure contact with the heating member during a pressure contact condition and to reduce the urging power of the urging member so that the pressure applying member is separated from the heating member during a pressure released condition, wherein the urging power of the urging member under the pressure released condition is lower than that under the pressure contact condition, and
 - wherein the changeover device comprises a stop member to limit the pressure applying member to move toward the heating member so that the pressure applying member is separated away from the heating member by the stop member during the pressure released condition.

2. The fixing device of claim 1, wherein the stop member limits the length of the urging member.
3. The fixing device of claim 1, wherein the pressure applying member has a supporting shaft, the urging member is a spring, and the changeover device has a shifting member, and wherein one end of the spring comes in contact with the shifting member, the other end of the spring comes in contact with one side of the supporting shaft and the opposite side of the supporting shaft is adapted to be held by the stop member.
4. The fixing device of claim 3, wherein the spring has a spring receptor at both ends thereof.
5. The fixing device of claim 3, wherein the opposite side of the supporting shaft is not held by the stop member during the pressure contact condition and the opposite side of the supporting shaft is held by the stop member during the pressure released condition.
6. The fixing device of claim 3, wherein the stop member and the shifting member of the changeover device are made in

one body so that the stop member moves together with the shifting member.

7. The fixing device of claim 6, wherein the stop member and the shifting member form a groove section in which the spring and the supporting shaft are incorporated.

8. The fixing device of claim 6, wherein the shifting member comprises a cam and a lever.